

31737

SERVICE DATE - MARCH 16, 2001

SEC

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 582 (Sub-No. 1)

MAJOR RAIL CONSOLIDATION PROCEDURES

Decided: March 15, 2001

An oral argument has been scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2001, at 10:00 a.m., in the Surface Transportation Board Hearing Room (Suite 760) at 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Board will provide an overflow room (the Brick Room) on the first floor of the building with a closed-circuit telecast of the entire argument.

Given the large number of persons likely to attend, the Board requests that all persons use the building's entrances located on 20th Street between K and L Streets. Participants and their associates should enter through the doors marked "Speakers Only". All others should use the entrance marked "Public". For security reasons, upon entering the 20th Street entrances, all persons should be prepared to produce photo identification (such as a driver's license), pass through a metal detector, and submit to an inspection of all briefcases, handbags and any other bags. The argument is expected to last all day, and the hearing room and the overflow room will be secured during any break that occurs.

To effectively conduct this argument, the Board must limit access to the hearing room and the overflow room. Participants and one associate each will be permitted into the hearing room, and Board staff will issue badges to them. Badges for each participant and associate will be available in the Office of the Secretary beginning April 2, 2001. The balance of the hearing room will be available for public seating on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the argument. The public badges for the hearing room and the overflow room will be issued by Board staff at the 20th Street entrance. "Line sitters" are permitted, but will not be issued badges. No badges will be required for the Brick Room.

Upon clearing security at the 20th Street entrance, all persons will be directed to their proper destinations. Only holders of hearing room or media badges will be admitted to the seventh floor hearing room. The media should contact the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services for admission badges, as noted in Surface Transportation Board News Release No. 01-11.

Board staff will begin admitting people to the hearing room and overflow rooms at 9:00 a.m. All participants are requested to arrive early enough to be admitted to the hearing room by 9:45 a.m. The Board's Hearing Room does comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, and persons needing such accommodation should contact the Office of the Secretary by noon, Friday, March 30, 2001.

The participants have been advised not to submit any additional written comments. All previously submitted comments by the participants in this proceeding have been posted on the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov). The comments are available for viewing and self-copying in the Board's Microfilm Unit, Room 755. The oral argument will be videotaped, and the Board will make arrangements to have the tapes duplicated, at cost, if there is a public demand for copies of the tapes.

Participants planning to use visual aids, such as maps, are advised to inform the Office of the Secretary at (202)565-1650, no later than close of business on Friday, March 30, 2001. Participants are limited to projector-adaptable visual displays or handouts. Board staff will be available in the Board's Hearing Room (Suite 760), from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, 2001, to demonstrate the Board's projection system.

Comments or questions concerning this decision should be directed to Bettye Uzzle, the Information Officer for the Office of the Secretary at (202)565-1650.

It is ordered:

1. Admittance to the Surface Transportation Board oral argument on April 5, 2001, will be based upon the conditions set forth above.
2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary